



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR WESTERN WISCONSIN COUNTIES

BUFFALO, CRAWFORD, JACKSON, JUNEAU, LA CROSSE, MONROE, TREMPLEAU, & VERNON

January 2004

Unemployment rates climb as temperature drops

The increase in the unadjusted unemployment rate for **Western Wisconsin** in December did not surprise area observers. The unadjusted unemployment rate rose from four percent in November to 4.7 percent in December. The increase of 0.7 percentage points is fairly typical for the season. The latest bump did not push the current rate over the 5.1 percent unemployment rate of one year ago.

December's statewide unadjusted rate increased to 4.8 percent from 4.5 percent in November. Nationally, the unadjusted unemployment

falo County had a higher rate than one year ago. The counties in **Western Wisconsin** followed a pattern statewide where unemployment rates increased from November in all but five counties. Unemployment rates in the state's 72 counties were higher than one year ago in only four counties, including Buffalo where the unemployment rate increased to 5.3 percent in December from 4.9 percent one year ago.

La Crosse County's reading of 3.6 percent was the fourth lowest Wisconsin county rate this December.

there are 2,500 more jobs in the region. Seven out of eight counties posted gains in jobs as compared to last December, with only Buffalo County reporting a job loss. Leading the increasing industries were trade, health services, and the 'all-other' service industry

The December seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the **La Crosse Metropolitan Area** was 4.2 percent, 0.3 percentage points higher as compared to November's revised reading of 3.9 percent. This year's December rate is two-tenths of a percentage point lower than the 4.4 percent recorded in December 2002. The December 2003 La Crosse **Metropolitan Area** seasonal unemployment rate ranked 40th lowest out of the nation's 331 metropolitan statistical areas.

The La Crosse **Metropolitan Area** joins the ten other metropolitan areas in Wisconsin reporting increases in their seasonally adjusted employment rates. All 11 Wisconsin metropolitan areas had higher seasonally adjusted rates in December 2003 than they had experienced last month. However, all 11 metropolitan areas had lower seasonal rates than recorded in December 2002.

Seasonally adjusted, the State of Wisconsin unemployment rate in December was 5.2 percent while the national rate was 5.7 percent.

rate dropped in December to 5.4 percent from 5.6 percent in November. Both Wisconsin and the Western area are more severely impacted by changes in weather and seasonal swings in manufacturing employment than the nation as a whole.

The unemployment rate rose in each of the eight counties in the region in December but only Buf-

Seven of the eight counties in the region reported a loss of jobs in December. Overall, there was a loss of 700 jobs in the area in December. Most of the reductions occurred as construction employers cut back for the winter months. Job reductions in construction totaled 500 in December.

Compared with twelve months ago,

Labor Force Estimates (Seasonally Adjusted)			
	La Crosse * MSA	Wisconsin (000s)	United States (000s)
Current month: December 2003			
Civilian Labor Force	76,800	3,093.7	146,878
Employment	73,600	2,934.3	138,479
Unemployment	3,300	159.3	8,398
Unemployment rate	4.2%	5.2%	5.7%
Change from one month ago			
Civilian Labor Force	800	4.6	(309)
Employment	500	-1.1	(54)
Unemployment	300	5.5	(255)
Unemployment rate	0.3%	0.2%	-0.2%
Change from one year ago			
Civilian Labor Force	2,600	65.8	1,721
Employment	2,600	79.8	2,020
Unemployment	100	-14.1	(300)
Unemployment rate	-0.2%	-0.5%	-0.3%

Note: All estimates are preliminary and based on place of residence.
* La Crosse MSA Statistics include Houston County Minnesota

Western Wisconsin Workforce Development Area

December 2003	Buffalo	Crawford	Jackson	Juneau	Lacrosse	Monroe	Trempealeau	Vernon	Region	Non MSA*	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force**	7,810	10,960	11,770	10,740	64,420	21,210	16,490	14,600	157,990	93,580	3,068,560
Employed	7,400	10,450	11,230	9,870	62,080	20,220	15,540	13,850	150,640	88,570	2,922,590
Unemployed	420	510	540	870	2,340	990	950	750	7,350	5,010	145,970
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	4.6%	4.6%	8.1%	3.6%	4.7%	5.7%	5.1%	4.7%	5.4%	4.8%
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	5,000	8,400	8,300	9,000	69,800	18,300	13,800	8,600	141,200	71,400	2,785,800
Total Private	4,100	7,200	5,300	6,800	60,100	13,900	11,400	6,400	115,100	55,000	2,368,000
Goods Producing	400	1,600	1,500	2,400	11,500	4,000	5,900	1,200	28,500	17,000	623,900
Service Producing	4,500	6,800	6,800	6,600	58,300	14,300	8,000	7,400	112,700	54,500	2,161,900
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	160	250	730	270	2,500	560	260	220	5,000	2,500	115,600
Manufacturing	300	1,300	800	2,100	9,000	3,400	5,600	900	23,500	14,500	508,300
Trade	500	2,600	900	1,200	12,400	2,900	1,600	1,700	23,800	11,400	446,500
Transportation & Utilities	1,800	200	800	400	2,100	1,800	600	300	7,900	5,800	327,600
Financial Activities	160	200	240	250	3,600	610	350	380	5,800	2,200	159,200
Education and Health Services	600	1,100	600	1,200	13,000	1,700	1,100	1,500	20,800	7,800	371,500
Leisure & Hospitality	400	900	900	900	6,600	1,500	900	700	12,700	6,100	232,200
Info., Prof. & Bus. Svcs, Other Svcs	200	600	300	500	11,000	1,400	1,000	600	15,600	4,700	430,000
Total Government	900	1,180	3,030	2,220	9,630	4,400	2,460	2,220	26,000	16,400	417,800
Federal	150	70	60	250	450	2,180	130	110	3,380	2,930	29,100
State	20	200	420	580	2,520	230	30	30	4,020	1,500	100,300
Local	740	910	2,560	1,390	6,660	1,990	2,310	2,090	18,640	11,980	288,400
Change from one month ago	November 2003										
Civilian Labor Force**	50	-10	-160	-20	100	-260	180	10	-100	-200	-4,100
Employed	-50	-80	-280	-110	-100	-260	-120	-110	-1,100	-1,000	-12,800
Unemployed	110	70	120	90	300	10	300	120	1,100	800	8,700
Unemployment rate(%)	1.3	0.6	1.1	0.9	0.4	0.1	1.7	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.3
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	-70	-20	-170	-60	-200	-170	-30	0	-700	-500	-9,800
Percent change NFWS from last month	-1.4%	-0.2%	-2.0%	-0.7%	-0.2%	-0.9%	-0.2%	0.0%	-0.5%	-0.7%	-0.4%
Total Private	-50	-30	-200	0	100	-100	-40	-30	-400	-500	-8,800
Goods Producing	0	-20	-200	0	-200	0	-40	-20	-600	-400	-9,000
Service Producing	-60	0	0	0	0	-100	0	20	-100	-100	-800
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	-10	-10	-200	-20	-200	-20	-30	-20	-500	-300	-8,500
Manufacturing	10	0	0	0	0	-30	0	0	-100	-100	-500
Trade	0	10	0	0	100	0	10	10	100	0	3,000
Transportation & Utilities	-20	0	10	0	0	10	0	-10	0	0	2,100
Financial Activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	300
Education and Health Services	0	10	10	0	-100	-10	0	-10	-100	0	-700
Leisure & Hospitality	-30	-10	-10	0	0	-30	-30	-10	-200	-200	-300
Svcs	0	-20	0	10	300	-10	0	10	300	0	-1,600
Total Government	-20	10	30	-30	-270	-80	0	30	-300	-100	-1,000
Federal	-20	0	0	10	0	-10	0	0	0	0	800
State	0	10	0	0	-180	0	0	0	-200	0	-1,800
Local	0	0	30	-40	-90	-70	10	30	-100	0	0
Change from one year ago	December 2002										
Civilian Labor Force**	280	500	350	250	2,200	1,060	830	590	6,000	3,800	63,800
Employed	230	500	440	340	2,300	1,140	880	610	6,500	4,100	76,700
Unemployed	40	-10	-100	-100	-200	-80	-50	-20	-500	-300	-12,900
Unemployment rate(%)	0.4	-0.3	-0.9	-1.1	-0.4	-0.6	-0.7	-0.4	-0.4	-0.6	-0.5
Total Nonfarm (NFWS) ***	-50	170	100	50	1,100	570	420	160	2,500	1,400	-900
Percent change NFWS from last year	-1.0%	2.1%	1.2%	0.6%	1.5%	3.2%	3.1%	2.0%	1.8%	2.0%	0.0%
Total Private	-40	150	0	0	1,100	600	300	100	2,300	1,200	7,000
Goods Producing	20	-170	100	-100	-100	0	100	0	-200	-100	-20,000
Service Producing	-60	340	0	200	1,100	600	300	100	2,600	1,500	19,000
Constr., Mining & Nat.Rsrcs	10	10	30	0	0	-10	0	-10	0	0	-6,400
Manufacturing	0	-180	0	-100	-100	0	120	30	-200	-100	-13,600
Trade	0	270	0	0	100	290	120	100	900	800	8,200
Transportation & Utilities	-30	-10	0	30	-100	250	0	10	200	200	4,200
Financial Activities	0	10	10	10	200	20	10	10	200	100	5,800
Education and Health Services	-40	10	0	100	500	50	20	40	700	200	10,600
Leisure & Hospitality	20	50	0	0	0	0	50	-20	200	200	800
Svcs	-10	0	-100	0	500	20	10	-60	400	-100	2,700
Total Government	-10	20	60	10	0	-40	80	70	200	200	-7,900
Federal	0	0	0	-20	0	10	0	0	0	0	-600
State	0	10	-40	20	90	-20	0	0	100	0	-2,500
Local	-10	10	90	20	-90	-30	80	70	100	200	-4,700

* Seven counties, excluding La Crosse County

** Includes participants residing in area.

*** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates above are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. NFWS data benchmarked to 3/2002

Find the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

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